

CHAPTER 2026-136

House Bill No. 1515

An act relating to public records; amending s. 381.9312, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for certain records and personal identifying information submitted to the Department of Health for inclusion in the uterine fibroid research database; providing a statement of public necessity; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 381.9312, Florida Statutes, to read:

381.9312 Uterine fibroid research database; education and public awareness.—

(4) PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION.—All records and personal identifying information relating to women diagnosed with or treated for uterine fibroids which is submitted to the department under this section are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to make all records and personal identifying information relating to women diagnosed with or treated for uterine fibroids which is submitted to the Department of Health under s. 381.9312, Florida Statutes, confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The Department of Health is unable to effectively implement the legislative purpose of the uterine fibroid research database, created under s. 381.9312, Florida Statutes, without access to these records and information, which include personal medical information, the disclosure of which would violate federal patient privacy laws, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Therefore, the Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to make such records and information held by the department confidential and exempt to protect the privacy rights of women diagnosed with and treated for uterine fibroids in this state and promote the effective administration of the department's epidemiological research and tracking activities.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 2026.